



ATF NIBIN Program Hits of the Week

March 7 to March 14, 2005

NIBIN Branch, Firearms Programs Division, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Week of 3/7: Use of the NIBIN system by the New York State Police linked a firearm recovered during a traffic stop to an aggravated assault that occurred a month earlier. The Poughkeepsie (NY) Police Department responded to a call and found a victim who was shot in the stomach while seated in his vehicle in a parking lot. The victim was not cooperative and could not tell police why he was shot or who shot him. Officers at the scene found a spent projectile, 9mm cartridge casings and one .380-caliber casing. They also found a set of keys and a loaded .380-caliber pistol near the victim's car. The New York State Police Laboratory entered the ballistic evidence into NIBIN. A month later State Police stopped a vehicle with three occupants on a possible traffic violation. The driver of the car had a suspended license and when officers searched the car they found a 9mm pistol with an obliterated serial number under the seat. The three occupants were arrested. The pistol was test fired and imaged into NIBIN, resulting in a link to the evidence collected at the assault a month earlier. One of the three subjects in the car was charged with possession of the weapon used during the assault and convicted.

Week of 3/14: The St. Louis (MO) Police Department used the NIBIN system to link a firearm recovered during a narcotics investigation to ballistic evidence collected at the scenes of an aggravated assault and a homicide that occurred within three days of one another. The victim of the aggravated assault told St. Louis Police that he was pumping gas when an unknown male approached him pointing a gun and asking him for drugs. The victim ran across the parking lot and did not realize he had been shot until he stopped running. He was transported to a local hospital with two gunshot wounds. Police recovered .40-caliber shell casings at the scene and submitted them for imaging into NIBIN. Three days later Police were sent to the scene of a shooting where they found a deceased victim sitting in the driver's seat of a vehicle with the motor still running. Officers located two .40-caliber shell casings at the scene and a bullet was recovered from the victim by the Medical Examiner. The casing and bullet were imaged into NIBIN. Almost two months later St. Louis Police executed a search and arrest warrant at a residence in connection with a narcotics investigation. During the search, the subject tried to hide a firearm as the officers approached him. The officers found the firearm and submitted it to the laboratory for test firing and entry into NIBIN, which resulted in a match to the ballistic evidence recovered in the assault and homicide.